(c) the number of cities in the country which are connected by waterways, so far, particularly from the commercial point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are three National Waterways namely:

(i) National Waterway No. 1: The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allhabad to Haldia;

(ii) National Waterway No. 2: The Brahamputra from Dhubri to Sadiya; and

(iii) National Waterway No. 3: The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakkara canals.

(b) All the three National Waterways are being utilized for transportation and these waterways are equipped with some basic facilities.

(c) The National Waterway No. 1 connects Allahabad, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Patna in Bihar and Kolkatta in West Bengal. Guwahati is connected through the National Waterway No. 2 in Assam. The National Waterway No. 3 connects Kochi in Kerala.

Increasing Number of Beggars in NCT of Delhi

879. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a tremendous increase of beggars in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these beggars are generally seen begging at the various cross-roads of NCT of Delhi;

(c) if so, whether Government plan to curb this nuisance value of beggars on Delhi roads;

(d) whether Government propose to rehabilitate the beggars; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Govt, of Delhi is implementing the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959. Special squads have been constituted by thj*,, Deptt, of Social Welfare to apprehend the beggars. Police officials are also vested with the power under Section 4 of the Act for apprehension of the beggars. The beggars are produced before the Special Court which may sentence them for a period of 1 to 3 years. However, Delhi being a metropolitan city attracts a large number of beggars from other states like Bihar, UP, W. Bengal, Orissa & northern states.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) On commitment, the beggars are sent to various beggars homes located in different part of Delhi after their classification based on age, sex, physical condition etc. At present, 11 beggar homes are being run by the Deptt, of Social Welfare besides one Reception-cum-Classification Centre. The total capacity of the 11 beggars homes is 2000 approx. In these institutions the beggars are provided with the facilities of boarding, lodging, medical care, recreation facilities and vocational training in different trades such as soap and detergent making, cutting and tailoring, weaving, laundry, printing, candle making. The facilities of counselling is also available. The idea behind this vocational training and counselling is to wean them away from the habit of begging and enable them to earn their livelihood so that they can become self reliant and confident after they are discharged from the institution.